



Reading Clinic clinician Carolyn Morris helps Jonathan Martin develop vocabulary skills using a newspaper while his sister Julie and supervisor Sheila Donahue look on.

New employees get a head start at Gallaudet orientation program

Until the early 1970s, new hearing faculty and staff members at Gallaudet shared a common bond of frustration because the anxieties of adjusting to a new job were compounded by trying to learn a new language and become oriented to a new culture.

Many of the initial insecurities that newcomers to the University have felt in the past has been relieved, however, thanks to an offering by the Department of Sign Communication called the New Faculty/Professional Staff Training and Orientation Program.

The eight-week summer program, which began June 19, offers intensive sign language training, an introduction to deaf culture given by members of

the campus community, orientations to Gallaudet's support services, and field trips to local deafness-related organizations such as the National Association of the Deaf.

The training does not end at that point, according to program coordinator Will Madsen. Since 1985, the program has been expanded from a summer offering to include training and orientation in sign language through an employee's first year, with a second summer follow-up program of about 80 hours.

"Altogether, the initial training program gives a new employee a total of about 500 hours of training in sign language," Madsen said. "This number of hours is about equal to that needed in most foreign language study programs for a person to reach a point where they could pass a proficiency test in that language."

This summer, 14 people are enrolled in the program, including two wives of new faculty members.

Although the training and orientation program is "very intense," according to graduate assistant and program support person Eric Reisman, it is one which definitely has payoffs, especially on the first day of fall semester when a faculty member has the initial confrontation with a room full of deaf students.

"Trying to learn a new culture and a new language and take on a full class load would be overwhelming" to many first-time teachers at Gallaudet, said Reisman, the only hearing person working with the all-deaf staff in the program.

"This summer [orientation] is certainly one way of easing the pressure of

Participants overcome obstacles in Reading Clinic

At the Gallaudet Reading Clinic, being held this summer for the eighth year, hearing impaired students who participate in the five-week program aren't the only ones who learn.

Parents and teachers also attend the clinic to expand their knowledge of the reading process and to develop strategies for working together to enhance the child's educational program.

"The obstacles facing many hearing impaired students who are learning to read are too great for parents or schools to handle in isolation," said Dr. Carol LaSasso, founder and director of the Reading Clinic and a professor in the Department of Education.

"Everyone seems to blame everyone else for deaf children's lack of progress in reading," she noted. "Parents tend to blame the schools for their child's lack of progress, while teachers and ad-

ministrators tend to blame parents for a child's lack of preparation.

"By the time the child is school-aged, the cause of the problem is a moot point, and the time is too short to waste by blaming others. Parents and teachers must work together to develop deaf students' base of knowledge and the abilities they need to become fluent readers."

Nineteen students between the ages of 8 and 23 are attending the Reading Clinic this summer. Most are from the Washington, D.C. area; however, one-third of the students are from other locations, including Georgia, New Jersey, Vermont, California, Mississippi, and Ontario, Canada.

The Reading Clinic uses non-traditional reading materials, including the newspaper *USA Today*. An elaborate incentive program, in which

students earn coupons for beverages, pizzas, movies, or tee-shirts from local businesses, also motivates students to read.

"The incentive program is very effective," said supervisor Chic Welsh-Charrier. "It is amazing how easy it is to motivate children to read when you figure out what they will work for."

LaSasso noted that once children have had sufficient positive experiences with reading, they will read on their own without an external incentive system.

"That's what this program is all about," said Nancy Swaiko, co-director of the clinic. "If we can show these kids that reading is a pleasurable activity, the job of parents and teachers in developing the child's reading abilities becomes much easier."

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National conference to begin soon

Helping adults with special needs become more literate and developing collaborative partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies will be two areas of focus of a major national conference beginning soon at Gallaudet.

The 1988 National Conference on Adults with Special Learning Needs, to be held Aug. 1-4, is designed for anyone who wishes to learn about adult education and how to meet the needs of disabled people.

The event will give particular emphasis to helping meet the educational needs of adults who are displaced homemakers, older Americans, relocated workers, homeless, immigrants, incarcerated, limited in English proficiency, migrants, minorities, out-of-

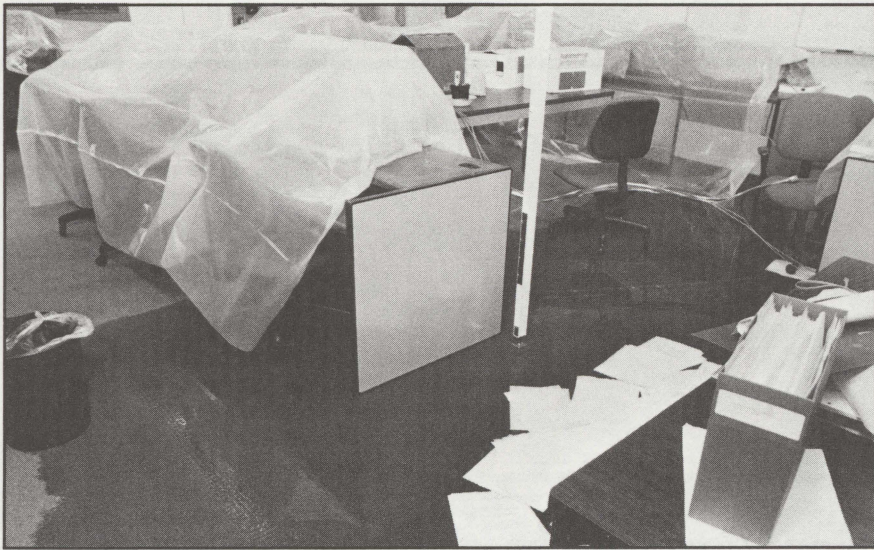
school youth, refugees, underemployed, or unemployed.

The conference, co-chaired by Dr. Boris Bogatz, director of Programs in Adult and Continuing Education (PACE), and William Langner of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, grew out of the First National Congress for Adults with Learning Needs, held at Gallaudet last October. That congress, attended by representatives of various advocacy groups, was designed to help develop information that could improve services for disabled adults.

The conference is co-sponsored by Gallaudet University through PACE, and by the American Association for Adults and Continuing Education.



Cheryl Murgel (left) and Rochelle Fields (third from left) of the Counseling Center use role playing to acquaint new faculty members (from left) Harry Boone, Qi Wang, and Creston Wood with student support services.



A sprinkler system on the third floor of Hall Memorial Building was accidentally activated July 12, causing flooding in English Department and User Services rooms. Covering computers in the ENFI lab (shown above) prevented damage, but the carpet took a good soaking.

Clinic also helps parents, teachers

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fall semester, because it's going to ease some of the initial shock of coming into class cold turkey," he said.

Sign instructors Pat Richey and Agnes Sutcliffe, with the help of two student assistants, give intensive courses in sign language and fingerspelling to provide a sound basis for new workers to communicate with students and the campus community as a whole.

It is a normal inclination for new employees to "feel a real urgency to learn to communicate right away, although sign language is a different language like any other," Reisman said. "These courses will help [new employees] to feel a little more confident in their ability to communicate."

The new employees began the orientation program with a one-week "silent retreat" at Claggett Conference Center in Buckeystown, Md. They were allowed only limited use of their voices, and concentrated, instead, on gestures and body language to convey most of their messages.

"As I type up the evaluations of the retreat, I find that it is quite an eye-opener for most of the participants," Reisman said. "A number of them made the comment that they sort of enjoyed the silence—they are so used

to an auditory perception of things that coming into silence was pleasant.

"Plus, communicating without voice helps to develop group awareness and bring the participants closer together," said Reisman. "This group is going to be very cohesive and be very supportive of each other, especially during the first semester."

Summer program trains employees

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Parents meet weekly with LaSasso to learn about the fluent reading process, variables influencing reading achievement, limitations of tests used with hearing impaired students, and strategies parents can use at home and with the school to assist their children.

In the seminars, parents learn that they should not rely on measures of reading levels to evaluate the effectiveness of their child's reading program or to select printed materials. They are given guidelines for evaluating growth in reading and for selecting appropriate printed materials for their children.

At the end of the clinic, parents confer with clinicians and are given a detailed diagnostic report that lists the child's strengths and needs and makes specific recommendations to parents and future teachers.

The Reading Clinic staff also works with classroom teachers and supervisors to develop their knowledge and skills in teaching reading. Experienced teachers who have completed a three-credit pre-clinic course in diagnosis and remediation of reading difficulties of hearing impaired students are eligible to be clinicians in the Reading Clinic and receive five graduate credits for their participation.

Ten clinicians and three clinic supervisors are participating in this summer's program. Supervisors are Lil Tompkins and Chic Welsh-Charrier from MSSD and Sheila Donahue from Comprehensive Assessment for Programmed Services (CAPS) Collaborative in Massachusetts. Nancy Swaiko, co-director, is an instructor at the Maryland School for the Deaf.

Several of this year's clinicians are supported by a Presidential Award to promote the expansion of satellite reading clinics.

Teaching music is workshop topic

More than 50 teachers and educators from around the country will gather at Gallaudet soon to learn about teaching music to hearing impaired students and to share their expertise with each other.

"This is the first time I know of where a group of educators who work with music with hearing impaired people have come together," said Diane Merchant, the director of Gallaudet's music program, who is coordinating the event and who is also hearing impaired.

"Music and Education of the Hearing Impaired," to be held July 31 through Aug. 2, is being funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The program will focus on the newest developments and strategies for teaching music to hearing impaired youth. Teachers will work in small groups geared toward their special interests or the ages of their students. Participants will learn about the latest technologies related to the topic, including those used in MSSD's music laboratory. Research on the use of music language rehabilitation in hearing impaired children will also be presented.

Performances by Charles Mokotoff, a hearing impaired classical guitarist from Northeastern University in Boston, and Jeff Bradetich, bass violin player and professor of music at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., are part of the program. Bradetich has recorded music especially for hard of hearing people. Gordon Dalgarno, a visiting research fellow at the University of York in England, will demonstrate a visual/tactile music system he has developed to improve perception of music by hearing impaired people.

Other presenters include Norman Lederman, a former teacher at MSSD who helped develop the MSSD music program; Victoria Stockton, a music instructor at the New York State School for the Deaf; and Diane Habeeb and Robert Mowers from the music program at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

"Music for hearing impaired people has been around for a long time, but it's really gaining steam now," she said. "I hope participants will come away with new ideas, strategies, and technologies for teaching hearing impaired students."

The workshop is open to people from Gallaudet. The charge for the entire program is \$54, but Gallaudet employees who may wish to attend only one or two sessions can call Merchant at x5641 for more information or to discuss special arrangements.

Classified Ads

FOR RENT: 2-BR house w/fenced yard and garage, in Mt. Rainier, Md., 12 min. from Gallaudet, \$650/mo. Call Bruce, 577-3477 (V/TDD).

FOR SALE: Whirlpool convertible portable DW w/3 finished sides and cutting-board top, must sell, \$250/BO. Call Daphne, x5270.

FOR RENT: 1-BR apt. w/indoor parking space, tennis courts, pool, exercise room, private park; inc. telephone answering service and util.; near White Flint and Montgomery malls, 2-min. walk to Grosvenor Metro, ½ mile to Beltway or Route 270; nonsmokers only; \$695/mo. Call Simon or Judy anytime, 299-8418 (V/TDD).

FOR SALE: Wooden toy box; white lamp table; rattan swivel chair; 3-drawer dresser w/mirror; brown wood rocking chair. Call Vicki, x5270 or 439-4921 (TDD) eves.

FOR SALE: Female Blue Point Himalayan cat, ¾ yr. old, very sweet and friendly, \$150/BO. Call B. Lynch, x5208.

FREE: Kittens, M and F, tiger, calico, white, and black. Call 421-9112 (V/TDD) 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

FOR SALE: '79 Toyota Celica GT Coupe, 5 speed, AC, AM/FM stereo w/ cassette, extra Toyota bra, exc. cond., \$1,295. Call John, x5555 or x5365.

WANTED: Roommates to share huge house in Lanham, Md., w/TDD, W/D, 2 mins. to Beltway, 5 mins. to subway, avail. Sept. 1, your own room \$200-\$225/mo. plus util. Call Amy, x5373 (V/TDD).

Announcements

"Ole Jim" will host its last Happy Hour of the summer on Friday, Aug. 5.

The Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company will present interpreted performances of Wallace Shawn's "Aunt Dan and Lemon" on Friday, July 29, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 31, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$15.50 and \$13.50 respectively, with \$2 discounts available for students and senior citizens. To purchase tickets, call the theater at 393-3939 (V) or CAPCOM, Inc., at 224-7769 (V).



Gina Oliva (left), director of Gallaudet's new Aerobics and Fitness Training Institute of the Deaf, stands with Kathie Davis, executive director of the International Dance Exercise Association, after receiving the Christine MacIntyre Memorial award at the annual IDEA convention in California in June.

Job Openings

Some of the advertised positions may already be filled. The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST: MSSD
AURAL REHABILITATIONIST: Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
ASSISTANT COORDINATOR FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND INTERNSHIP IN THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT: Experimental Programs Off Campus
ACADEMIC ADVISER: School of Preparatory Studies
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ACADEMY: College for Continuing Education
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST: National Academy
COORDINATOR, PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY TRAINING: National Academy
COMMUNICATION CENTER AIDE: School of Preparatory Studies
RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Center for Audiology and Speech Sciences.
CASHIER: Bookstore

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